

May 28, 2004

To: Honorable Members of the FCC

From: Marc Williams

RE: H. R. 4026 ?Local Emergency Radio Service Preservation Act of 2004?

Dear Commissioners:

I respectfully urge you to take a stand against H. R. 4026 ?Local Emergency Radio Service Preservation Act of 2004.? Although the title of this bill sounds as if it is in some way protecting our country?s citizens, actually it is about protecting the terrestrial radio providers from competition. It is not needed, not wanted, and will simply stifle competition and growth in the marketplace. The only intent of this bill is to block satellite radio providers from delivering any local content.

Local radio companies and the National Association of Broadcasters need to focus on improving their product rather than asking the government to provide them protection from competitors. The broadcasting industry attained permission for massive consolidation under the auspices of the 1996 Telecommunications Reform Act, which has not proven beneficial to listeners. In fact, it has precipitated a homogenous product with fewer choices and monotonous content. Likewise, H. R. 4206 will bring no benefit to broadcast consumers, but will in fact harm satellite radio customers. There is no need for this.

Satellite radio is a welcome service enjoyed by its customers and should not be penalized with unnecessary regulation propelled by competitors. As a customer I very much appreciate the capabilities of the technology and the programming content provided by XM Radio. I want access to all types of programming, not just the content approved by the NAB. New technologies abound in the multimedia environment, and protectionism will only stifle economic growth and limit the choices of the consumer.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Marc Williams

Alpharetta, GA